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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 20 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED RESPECTIVELY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 March 1991 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the infiltration of large numbers of armed groups into Iraq from a neighbouring State and their engagement in acts of widespread subversion, murder, destruction, arson and pillage in a number of Iraqi governorates.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 20 March 1991 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention and the attention of the members of the international community to the fact that, immediately after the announcement of the cessation of military operations by the armed forces of the United States and its allies, large numbers of armed and organized groups infiltrated into the country from a neighbouring State, as already indicated in the address by the President of the Republic of 16 March 1991. These groups engaged in widespread acts of subversion, murder, destruction, arson and pillage in the governorates of Basra, Meisan, Dhi Qar, Qadisiya, Karbala, Najaf, Muthanna and Babil and the same thing happened a few days later in the governorates of Sulaimaniya, Irbil and Dohuk.

It is noteworthy that the neighbouring State from the territory of which these groups came has not concealed its sympathy, as expressed in statements by its officials, with the acts committed by these groups. These armed groups have engaged in widespread sabotage operations, including the destruction and pillage of hospitals, universities, schools, court-houses, food warehouses, official government offices, public utilities such as electricity and water supply and fire-fighting facilities and other public service institutions, as well as the large-scale destruction and pillage of houses, commercial establishments, vehicles and other private property.

The losses suffered by State institutions and citizens as a result of these deliberate criminal acts are estimated at very large amounts. Moreover, these criminal acts have created an extremely serious situation from the standpoint of the living conditions, health and welfare of several million Iraqi citizens who have already suffered greatly from the damage caused by the military operations, as indicated in the letter which I sent to you on 3 March 1991.

The purpose of this letter is to give you a general idea of the nature of the losses suffered by Iraq as a result of these deliberate acts of sabotage. We will subsequently be providing you with detailed information concerning these losses.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Iraq

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